Uniform subsidy for fertilizer plants

2179. SHRI BJ. PANDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 638, given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 2000 and state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for fixing an uniform subsidy rate for all fertilizer manufacturing plants; and

(b) if so, since when and the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Invention of new medicines from herbs

2180. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Ministry to discover or invent new medicines from traditional herbs in our country;

(b) whether there is any plan to establish new R&D institutions for this purpose in the near future; and

(c) whether there is any plan to tap the herbs which are traditionally used as medicines in North-Eastern States and to establish an R&D institution in the area for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Research and Development (R&D) in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is focused towards

(i) authenticating and standardizing existing traditional preparations;